

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:STESCUDERO:MAR/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:SSOBER

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S/S - RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188801

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE
SECRETARY

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI. IT IS NOT REPEAT
NOT PLANNED TO SEND SIGNED ORIGINALS. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR
MR. MINISTER: AS YOU KNOW, WE IN THE UNITED STATES ATTACH
CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH ARE
LIKELY TO COME UP IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF. OF PARTICULAR
CONCERN TO US ARE THE QUESTIONS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA.
BECAUSE OF THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE
UNITED STATES, I WISH TO REINFORCE WHAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES
HAVE SAID IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA BY ADDRESSING YOU
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PERSONALLY ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE

TWO SUBJECTS.

2. ON PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPT-
ANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE
PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION AND COM-
MONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952 AND REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A
1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED

THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO
RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN
1953. WE ASSURED THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME THAT,
IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION
IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE,
THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT
INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

3. IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS
BY ANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ASSEMBLY WOULD BE AN
UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE
UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES CAME
INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES
AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY AND EACH HAS BEEN ABLE
TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHED TO FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES
CHOSE INDEPENDENCE (1947); HAWAII, STATEHOOD; AND
PUERTO RICO, A SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
U.S. WHICH CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF
PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
UNITED STATES, ANY OUTSIDE DISCUSSION OF THIS RELATIONSHIP
CAN ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO US AND TO THE PEOPLE OF
PUERTO RICO.

4. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED TUNISIA'S VOTE TO POSTPONE
CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24
LAST YEAR, AND I TRUST THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO DEPEND
ON YOUR CONTINUED FIRM SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE.

5. WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE
MOST UN MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN ISSUE
BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL AND CONTENTIOUS CONTROVERSY
USELESSLY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA. HOWEVER,
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IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE UN MEMBERSHIP ACCEDE TO
PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION - SUCH AS
ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY OR ALTERING THE
MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAVE PRESERVED PEACE FOR 23 YEARS
- IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL BE FACED WITH A
CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO
RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE YOU
WOULD DO A SERVICE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA

BY ADVOCATING THAT STATEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON THIS ISSUE EMPHASIZE ONLY THE NEED FOR A CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THEY AGREED IN 1972.

ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR MULCAHY WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT OF MY PROPOSAL.

6. SINCE THERE IS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER ISSUE AT COMING MEETINGS, IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER AND IN THE SECOND BY THE ADVOCACY OF A CONSTRUCTIVE MINIMAL POSITION WHICH CAN BE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION. RESPECTFULLY, HENRY A. KISSINGER.
END TEXT.

7. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED, PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GOT FROM RELEASE IF ISSUE IS RAISED.

KISSINGER

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